



White-Legged Fowls.

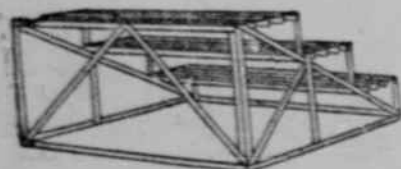
In English markets white-legged fowls have the preference in the markets. Here the popular taste is reversed. Breed has much to do with color, but we note that it is the heavier breeds that eat most corn which are fattest, and whose legs most show the yellow color that is an indication of superior quality. The English fowls are mostly fattened on barley and oats, as corn cannot well be grown in the English climate.

Buying Cheap Fertilizers.

It is the natural tendency of farmers when confronted with low prices of products to save themselves by the purchase of cheaper fertilizers, or by dispensing with any boughten fertilizer. But this is nearly always a mistake. The cost of the fertilizer is only a small part of the cost of making a crop. Labor is a much more expensive item, and if the soil be not rich enough, much of this labor will be ineffective. As for using poorer grades of fertilizers, they cost as much to apply them as the best. In fact, the more expensive grades of fertilizers are usually in finer condition, and can be easily made to cover a large surface and do more good to the first crop.—American Cultivator.

A Cheap Plant Stand.

Any boy can make this plant stand with a few laths and a few wire nails, and it need cost only a few cents. If the women folks make it themselves, they had better make it the length of a lath so that a saw need not be used, as sawing is one of the hardest things



LATH FLOWER STAND.

a woman can do, as we know by experience.

This stand is not so frail as it looks, as the laths are quite strong when placed on edge.

Make the shelves first and then make the frame and wherever the laths cross drive a wire nail through and clinch it. Paint the stand green.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

The Care of New Seedling.

It requires time as well as plenty of grass seed to make a perfect sod that shall cover the entire surface. Whoever after the ground has once been frozen in the fall, shall examine the grass seedling of the previous spring, will be surprised to find how little the soil is really covered. Before the freezing came the fresh leaves of grass seemed to make almost a perfect mat over the surface. But under the touch of frost the whole plant appears to shrink to not more than a quarter of its original size. This allows much freezing of the surface soil, and many of the grass roots are undoubtedly destroyed, as the soil is alternately lifted by freezing and falls back again whenever the hold of the frost has relaxed.

A mixture of clover and grass seed helps to cover the surface much better the first winter than grass can possibly do alone. The clover will in such case make a spreading head that will cover most of the surface. It, too, will show the pinching of winter's freezing, but as the clover leaves are browned and fall on the soil they cover the grass roots with just the kind of fertilizing mulch that is needed to make rapid growth when springtime comes. The clover will also start into growth quickly enough to check the weeds that are pretty sure to get the advantage when grass seed is sown alone in weedy soil.

Beauty is Utility.

Does it pay to cultivate flowers, ornamental trees and shrubs and make the surroundings of a farm home attractive?

A farmer should plant only such trees and shrubs as are useful. As for flowers, of what use are they?

We often hear the useful and ornamental contrasted as if they were the antipodes of comparison. Anything that ministers to our physical needs is useful. Anything that does not afford food or shelter may be beautiful, but if it is not essential to our existence it is of no particular use, so we are told.

What things are essential to our existence? We find ourselves subject to certain laws. We are hungry and must eat, thirsty and must drink, cold and must be warmed. We comply with these laws and we exist. But "it is not all of life to live." If it were, we would be no better than the "beasts that perish." We have a higher nature that demands attention. We have no more right to neglect or starve it than we have to abuse our bodies.

Potatoes and cabbages are excellent things to have in the garden, but there are more suitable plants for the front yard. Let us plant trees for protection, shade and ornament. They will serve also as homes for our friends, the birds, who cheer us with their merry songs while they guard our orchards and gardens from injurious insects.

Trees should be carefully selected and planted so that they will not entirely shut out the purifying, health-giving sunshine.

We occasionally see a home fairly buried in trees, so that moisture collects on the walls and a musty atmosphere pervades the place. But the owner who has planted and tenderly watched the growth of the trees can rarely be persuaded to remove even one.

Groups of trees are fine for shade. But let them be removed a space from the house. Pines may be planted in a circle, the lower limbs trimmed away on the inside as the trees grow, making a lovely summer house carpeted and roofed with fragrant pine needles. Here one may swing in a hammock and enjoy a book after the day's work is done; or the children may spread their lunch and "play house."

Ornamental shrubs may be planted where a tree would be out of place. They may screen an unsightly view; but they should not be scattered promiscuously about the yard. A well-kept lawn is always beautiful, but one besprinkled with shrubs and flower-beds is not always. When laying out flower-beds in the spring, we must consider our time and strength as well as our love for flowers. We are tempted to plant more in May than we can cultivate in July. Often a bed of cut flowers in a corner of the kitchen garden will afford more real satisfaction than elaborate designs.

Trees, shrubs and flowers, if well chosen and tastefully arranged, increase our happiness by making home life more enjoyable, and are, therefore, in the highest sense useful.—Margaret Marlowe.

A Mexican Catacomb.

The largest catacomb of the new world is at Guanajuato, Mexico. It is a portion of a treeless cemetery perched upon a mountain ridge overlooking a narrow, sterile valley, in which is located the city, containing a living population of 50,000.

The high, thick, adobe walls of the cemetery contain receptacles for the coffined dead. When rent for these receptacles is unpaid the bodies are removed to the catacomb, unclothed and piled with more ancient bones and dust. The catacomb is blasted out of the rocky soil, with a level floor twenty feet under ground. It is a roomy corridor, with vents for sunlight and air through the arched roof of rock. The bones of the unnamed and unnumbered dead are piled compactly up at either end.

Slowly the open space is contracting, but there is still a hundred yards of it. Along its facing walls partially preserved cadavers have been placed, apparently to attract the curious. They make a ghastly array, with male subjects on one side and females on the other. Most of them are recent dead, and some are clothed, wholly or partially. A few have papers loosely pinned to them, stating names and dates of death—a pitifully feeble effort to stay, if but for a moment, the relentless march of oblivion.—Leslie's Weekly.

The Locality of Disease.

In an interesting article on the areas of disease the London Saturday Review remarks upon the consensus of medical opinion that diseases in general have their local habitations—some, like tropical animals and plants, living only in the tropics; some, like consumption, gradually spreading over the whole earth, while others, like leprosy and smallpox, are by degrees becoming limited in their distribution, possibly tending, it may be, toward extinction. On the other hand, however, there are regions to which diseases have never reached, for instance, on the summits of high mountain ranges and in the circumpolar snowfields of the earth and air and water are as barren of the microbes of disease as they are of animal life. The writer in the Review admits that in a country like Britain, thickly populated for many centuries, and with the freest circulation of population, it cannot be doubted that every yard of surface contains the germs of the more common diseases, and the native of some newer land, brought over to Britain's shores, falls a victim to its plague-stricken soil; but by generations of a destructive elimination Britons have become highly resistant to their native diseases—yet not fully so, for cancer and consumption, two of the most common scourges, still hold powerful sway.

THE REALM OF FASHION.

English Costume for Misses.

No feature of the season, says May Manton, is more marked than the free use of bayadere stripes. The stylish costume shown is made of cheviot



BLOUSE WAIST AND FOUR-GORED SKIRT.

showing irregular lines of green woven on a mixed tan-colored ground, with trimming of black braid and full front and yoke of green velvet. With it is

Norfolk Blouse Waist For Ladies.

Whatever novelties may come or may go, writes May Manton, the Norfolk jacket is too essentially comfortable and convenient to be allowed to fall into disuse. This season it pouches slightly at the front and has an added basque, but all the fundamental features are unchanged. The model shown in the double-column illustration is made of black and white check trimmed with silk braid, but any light-weight cloth or cheviot is equally suitable. The foundation is a fitted lining including the usual pieces and seams, which closes at the centre-front, but the jacket proper is fitted with shoulder and under-arm seams only and closes invisibly at the left side. The plaits, which are applied, are cut separately and laid onto the cloth, those at the back and front meeting exactly at the shoulder seams. The basque portion is separate and seamed at the waist line, where a belt of the material is worn. The sleeves are two-seamed and fit snugly, and are simply finished with bands of braid. At the neck is a straight, high collar and with the jacket is worn a jaunty hat of black straw, velvet trimmed.

To make this jacket for a lady in the medium size will require two and one-fourth yards of forty-four-inch material.

Jacket Shapes For Spring.

In jacket shapes for the spring, short, medium and three-quarter lengths still prevail, which is a very satisfactory state of fashion, affording a variety of choice for women of every height and figure, and much more attractive than if they were all uniformed in one special style. The collars are still the familiar standing shapes, finished with braid. Soutache medallions with ornaments to correspond are laid across the jacket-front, pleated silk or satin edgings, straps,



NORFOLK BLOUSE WAIST.

worn a toque with crown of straw but full brim of velvet and trimming of feathers.

The foundation for the waist is a fitted lining which includes the usual pieces and seams and closes at the center-front, but the blouse proper is fitted by shoulder and under-arm seams only with the basque portion attached at the waist line. The full vest of velvet is attached to the right shoulder and seamed to the right-front but hooks over onto the left. The round collar that widens to form revers at the front, is faced with tan-colored poplin and seamed to the open neck. Below the revers the blouse is closed and held in place by straps of the material buttoned across over the narrow velvet vest. The sleeves are two-seamed and snug-fitting. At the waist is worn a belt of the velvet closed by means of a steel clasp.

The skirt is four-gored and fits smoothly across the front and over the hips, the fullness at the back being laid in backward-turning plaits. It is lined throughout and stiffened with hair-cloth for a depth of five inches.

To make this blouse for a miss of fourteen years will require one and three-fourths yards of forty-four-inch material. The skirt will take three and one-half yards of the same width goods.

braid-edged tabs, points, and other fancy shapes being arranged to conform to the general style of the jacket. Some of the pretty, loose-fronted models fasten on the left side, and are trimmed on the front with pende-loques and braids to give the effect of a double-breasted garment. At the top, short broad revers turn away, and join a very flaring collar, and both revers and collars are faced with white or cream cloth and edged with a trefoil design in braid. Soutache in two or three different widths is used on one jacket.

Novelties in Boots and Shoes.

There are some clever novelties in boots and shoes. A broad buckle is becoming to the foot, but hitherto has had this disadvantage—that it does not admit of any fastening, the buckle being strictly ornamental. Now, however, a couple of invisible buttons have been introduced at the side, which keep the fronts firmly on the foot.

New Nuns' Veiling.

The new nuns' veiling is the daintiest sort of summer fabric made of silk and wool mixed. It is very thin and sheer, and comes in lively soft colors with a striped border on the edge.

THE FIGHTING GURKHAS.

Something About the Men Who Win England's Battles in India.

The Gurkhas, to whose valor we owe so much on the Indian frontier, are not afraid of death in any shape or form, have the instinct of instant and unquestioning obedience to orders from superiors, and take an actual and physical delight in fighting. It is a popular error to suppose that they are without caste. There are about thirteen different castes among them, and several sub-division in each caste. But when serving in British regiments and while on a campaign, Gurkhas do not allow their caste system to interfere with their comforts, and will eat and drink freely with Europeans and among themselves. They have no objection to taking a pull at a British soldier's flask, and will share a "chapati" with the most menial camp-follower. They will gladly take a cigar or tobacco from a European, but on no account must a man of one caste smoke in the company of another.

All Gurkhas trace their descent from the Rajputs, of Central India, the Thappas and Gurungs especially claiming to have the bluest Hindu blood in India running in their veins. They have, however, intermarried for generations with Mongolian women.

Gurkhas have one physical peculiarity. Their stature is below the average and as they do not wear beards, and their mustaches, in spite of much care, never attain a luxuriant growth, and to a casual observer a Gurkha regiment appears to consist of boys, not men. It is on record that when Lord Roberts was marching through the Kurram, the Pathan women and children came out to jeer at the striplings whom he was leading, as it seemed, to their certain death, and they only changed their opinion, when, largely owing to the heroism of these same Gurkhas, the Afghan army were driven headlong from the Peiwar Kotal.

The colonel of a distinguished regiment used to tell a story of a Pathan who had traveled a long distance to get a glimpse of the terrible soldiers that had defeated his countrymen. When he saw the little boyish-looking Gurkhas standing guard at the Bala Hissar, he committed suicide "for very shame," at least—and this is the best part of the story—so the guard declared when asked to explain the presence of the dead body.—London News.

A Woman as Saw Mill Hand.

"A brawny woman clad in blue cottonade waist and skirt, who is able to run a saw-mill engine as well as any man in the business, is rather an unusual sight," said Walter Wade, "but that is just what I saw in a Tennessee wood a few weeks ago. The female engineer's name is Annie Fables, and she told me she had been doing a 'full hand's' work at the mill for six years. Five years ago she decided she could run the engine, and the mill boss told me she had been one of the most careful, as well as one of the most competent, he had ever seen. Mrs. Fables lost her husband six years and a half ago, and a few months afterward she asked for a place in the mill where her liege lord has been employed. She began working as an 'off-bearer,' and in a year and a half was put in charge of the monster piece of machinery which furnished motive power for the large circular and straight saws. She has all along earned a man's wages and has been able to support and give her seven fatherless little ones a good common school education. She is fond of the hard labor, and has lost but five days during her connection with the mill, and then she was ministering to a sick child."—Louisville Post.

Brain Weight and Genius.

Some interesting facts bearing on the size and weight of the brain were given recently by Sir William Turner. In the case of Europeans the average brain weight is from forty-nine to fifty ounces in man and from forty-four to forty-five ounces in woman. It is interesting to note that even in new-born children the boys have bigger heads and heavier brains than the girls. The brains of a number of men of ability and intellectual distinction have been weighed and ascertained to be from fifty-five to sixty ounces. In a few exceptional cases, as in the brains of Cuvier and Dr. Abercrombie, the weight has been more than sixty ounces, but it should also be stated that brains weighing sixty ounces and upward have occasionally been obtained from persons who had shown no sign of intellectual eminence. On the other hand, it has been pointed out that if the brain falls below a certain weight it cannot properly discharge its functions. This minimum weight for civilized people experts have placed at thirty-seven ounces for men and thirty-two ounces for women.

Feminine Generalship.

On one occasion the noted British officer Tarleton was speaking contemptuously of Colonel William Washington to a patriot lady. "Why," said Tarleton, "they tell me he is so ignorant that he cannot even write his name." With a meaning glance at Tarleton's right hand, which Washington had wounded, the lady replied: "But nobody is better aware than you, Colonel Tarleton, that Colonel Washington knows how to make his mark."